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L-R: Andrew Jones, AIDN-NT; Gareth James, DBERD; Nigel Ringshaw, IFAP; Greg Haigh, Accrete & RANms; Richard Galton, DBERD; Hon Kon Vatskalis, Minister for Defence Support; Robert Hunter, Vice President Operations Australian Aerospace; and Mr Graeme Breen Vice President Integrated Systems Australian Aerospace.

### brisbane visit

On 6 November 2007 Richard Galton, Chief Executive DBERD and Gareth James, Assistant Secretary Defence Support DBERD accompanied the Minister for Defence Support, the Hon Kon Vatskalis, on a visit to two Brisbane based defence prime contractors Australian Aerospace and Haulmark Trailers.

Other Northern Territory representatives who joined them on the trip included Andrew Jones, AIDN-NT and Greg Haigh, Accrete and RANms. Nigel Ringshaw who represents Industrial Foundation for Accident Prevention, which operates in Perth and Darwin, travelled from Perth to join in the visit.

### australian aerospace

Australian Aerospace is the manufacturer of the Tiger Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter which Defence is acquiring as part of an extensive helicopter replacement program.

Seventeen of the fleet of 22 Tiger helicopters will be based at Robertson Barracks with 1st Aviation Regiment from 2008 onwards. The value of the Tiger acquisition and sustainment program is well over \$1 billion dollars. Australian Aerospace will deliver the through life support for this fleet for 15 years and more.



MRH90 Multi Role Helicopter - Australian Aerospace will deliver 46 MRH90's to the ADF under AIR 9000. Image courtesy of the Australian Department of Defence

Mr Robert Hunter, Vice President Operations and Mr Graeme Breen, Vice President Integrated Systems from Australian Aerospace hosted the Northern Territory delegation, and during the visit the Minister and DBERD representatives was able to strengthen the Northern Territory's relationship with this company and its commitment to undertake as much as possible of the through life support for the Tiger in Darwin.

Australian Aerospace delivered a briefing on the Tiger program and confirmed that the deep level through life support maintenance and the routine maintenance for the Tigers based in the Northern Territory will be undertaken here. They are looking to engage with suitably accredited small businesses who can deliver specific support. Such support could be in the areas of delivering tools, consumables, rotables, calibration services, non destructive testing and minor composite repair.

Australian Aerospace also confirmed the ARH Underwater Escape Trainer is to be based in Darwin and the company is working closely with Accrete to establish the training capability, including provision of the device for training the Tiger crews. Australian Aerospace has established a workforce at Robertson Barracks and are now preparing to receive and support the helicopters when they start arriving next year.

THALES Australia, which is a partner with Australian Aerospace in the Tiger program, will also establish a team at Robertson Barracks to support the simulator training.

Another opportunity related to the Tiger projects is the support of a small number of transition training aircraft with 'glass cockpits', the EC-135. These aircraft will be operated in Darwin as part of the Tiger program and Australian Aerospace's preferred aircraft operator for this aircraft will need to establish operations here and utilise support from local businesses.

The Minister has invited Australian Aerospace to Darwin in the New Year to attend an industry workshop organised by DBERD to meet with local SMEs who may have the capability to support Australian Aerospace. DBERD will arrange this in consultation with NTICN, AIDN-NT and the Defence Materiel Organisation.



ARH Underwater Escape Trainer in operation at Accrete training facility, Hudson Creek

## haulmark trailers

Haulmark Trailers has been selected by Defence as the preferred tenderer to deliver all the trailers under a project known as Project Overlander – Land 121. Over 3,000 trailers are to be manufactured and supported under this project, and many of these will be for the Army presence at Robertson Barracks.

The Northern Territory delegates were hosted by Spencer Grammer, Managing Director and Mike Ireland, General Manager. DBERD has been liaising with this company for some four years throughout the tender period.

The visit enabled the Minister and Department to advance discussions held with Haulmark Trailers at the 2007 Land Warfare Conference, where a joint announcement was made stating that Haulmark Trailers are committed to establishing a \$10 million facility at the Defence Support Hub to manufacture and deliver the through life support for those trailers to be based in the Northern Territory.

Haulmark said the facility would be developed in partnership with local company Territory Transport Sales (TTS). TTS has been the local agent for Haulmark since 1983, providing maintenance and local support for Haulmark equipment supplied to the Army.

The Northern Territory delegation wished Haulmark Trailers every success in their final contract negotiations with Defence, and Minister Vatskalis confirmed the Northern Territory Government will continue to work with Haulmark as the Land 121 project evolves to ensure we understand their requirements and support the establishment of their facility and operations at the Defence Support Hub.



Hon Kon Vatskalis, Minister for Defence Support and Mike Ireland, General Manager Haulmark Trailers.



Hon Kon Vatskalis, Minister for Defence Support and Spencer Grammer, Managing Director Haulmark Trailers.

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